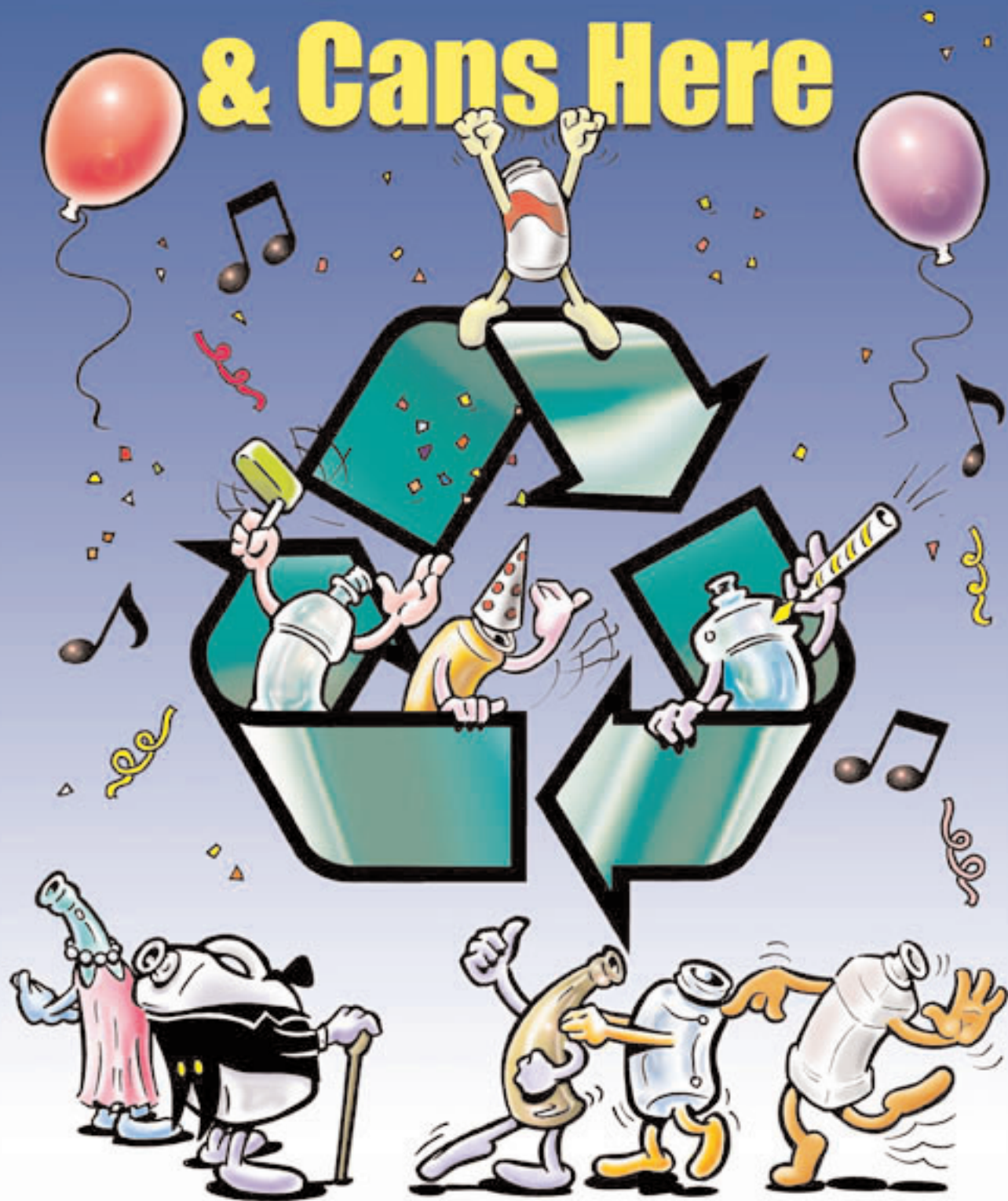


Recycle Bottles & Cans Here



A message from the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission
of Santa Clara County and your City



Having a party?

Help your guests recycle bottles and cans.
Tape this Fun Recycling Sign to a spare container.



Tips for an Environmentally Friendly Party

Enjoy yourself without spending money on disposable items — have fun without creating mounds or mountains of waste! Here's how:

Party Planning Step 1. REFRESHMENTS/MEALS

Choosing a restaurant? Choose one that uses cloth napkins and non-disposable dishes. Ask questions! If the restaurant doesn't recycle, choose another place and let both restaurants know why.

Choosing a caterer? Choose a caterer who will supply reusable dishes and napkins, and will set up for recycling. If you're having the food supplied, ask the caterer to provide reusable trays that can then be returned or ask to have food presented on your trays/dishes.

Do-it-yourself? Turn down the heat before your guests arrive. You'll save energy and your guests will be more comfortable, because the extra bodies will heat the house.

Party Planning Step 2. SIMPLE AND INEXPENSIVE

The simplest: choose a finger food menu (no forks or plates needed). Provide a recycling bin for beverage cans and bottles.

Purchase enough cloth napkins for the party (or rent from a linen service). Once bought, cloth napkins will be useful for years.

A little more fancy: Renting dishes, glassware and linens from a party store makes your party more elegant and eliminates the need to buy and dispose of paper products. Check "Rental Service Stores" in the yellow pages for a place to rent dishes, napkins, and flatware.

Party Planning Step 3. DO YOU EXCHANGE GIFTS?

Ask everyone to be creative in gift-wrapping: no commercial paper allowed! Cloth (even napkins), old maps, Sunday comics, and other items can have a second life as wrapping paper. Consider awarding a prize for the most clever and waste-free package.

Consider a no-stuff strategy. Do your friends or employees really need more stuff? As an alternative, give museum memberships, restaurant certificates or sporting event tickets.

If your office still uses disposable cups, a mug can make a fun gift exchange. Daily use of mugs will noticeably decrease the garbage in your employee lunchroom. Suggest that everyone check their homes for mugs they don't use or shop for "new" mugs at a thrift store.

For more waste reduction ideas, visit ReduceWaste.org